

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for the

TLK Investment, LLC Road Reconstruction and Right-of-Way Application

EA # OR117-05-08

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA

April 2005

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass

EA # OR117-05-08

ACTION/TITLE: TLK Investment, LLC Road Reconstruction and Right-of-Way

LOCATION: T35S, R7W, Section 23, NE1/4NW1/4,
Willamette Meridian, Josephine Co., Oregon

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russell Groves
Medford District Office, BLM
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
(541) 471-6944

INTERDISCIPLINARY PREPARERS	TITLE	RESOURCE VALUES ASSIGNED	INITIAL & DATE
Russell Groves	Realty Specialist	Team Leader and Minerals, Lands, and Cultural	
Robin Snider	Wildlife Biologist	Prime or Unique Lands, Wildlife, Grazing, and Fisheries	
Stephanie Messerle	Fisheries Biologist	Fisheries	
Dave Maurer	Soil Scientist	Floodplains, Wetlands, Soils, Water	
Jim Roper	Engineer	Roads, Quarries, Road Agreements, Easements	
Linda Mazzu	Botanist	T&E Plants	
Lisa Brennan	Cultural	Historical / Archeological	
Cori Cooper	Recreation Planner	Visuals	

1.0 Purpose and Need for Action

This environmental assessment (EA) will assist in the decision-making process by assessing the environmental and human effects resulting from implementing the proposed project or alternatives. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to or is consistent with:

- (1) Final EIS (October 1994) and Record of Decision (ROD) (June 1995) for the Medford District Resource Management Plan;
- (2) Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (February 1994);
- (3) ROD for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its attachment A entitled Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (April 1994);
- (4) Final Supplemental EIS for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (March 2000), and the ROD and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2001);
- (5) Final Supplemental EIS for Clarification of Language in the 1994 Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl: Proposal to Amend Wording about the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (October 2003), and the Record of Decision Amending Resource Management Plans for Seven Bureau of Land Management Districts and Land and Resource Management Plans for Nineteen National Forests Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl: Decision to Clarify Provisions Relating to the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (March 2004);
- (6) Final Supplemental EIS to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines (January 2004) and the ROD to Remove or Modify the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines in Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Document within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (March 2004);
- (7) ROD and Resource Management Plan Amendment for Management of Port-Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts (May 2004) and the Final Supplemental EIS for the Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon (January 2004).

1.1 Purpose of and Need for the Proposal

TLK Investment LLC (hereinafter referred to as TLK) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a right-of-way (ROW) grant for access across BLM lands to their private property and business, the OK Corral. The applicant first sought a permit from Josephine

County Planning Department to make improvements to their property. A condition of the county permit is that TLK must apply to the BLM for permission to reconstruct a portion of the access road over public land to create a safe transportation system and allow emergency vehicles to safely travel the route by creating two turnouts and improving sight distant at one location.

1.2 Location

The proposed action is in the congressionally designated Rogue River National Wild and Scenic river corridor in T35S, R7W, Section 23 (Appendix A, Maps).

2.0 Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

The No Action Alternative would mean that TLK Investment, LLC would not be authorized to construct two turnouts as requested by Josephine County Planning and not be able to rectify the current sight distant safety concern.

2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposal is to grant TLK their requested ROW permit as described below:

Two emergency vehicle turnouts 45' x 10' would be constructed (Appendix A, Map 2). Approximately 8 to 10 trees, mostly oaks with an average DBH of <9" would be removed at each turnout site. The turnouts would be rocked to a depth of 6".

Sight distance would be increased at a corner 0.3 miles from the end of the county paved road. Five to 10 cubic yards of material would be excavated and removed from public lands.

2.3 Project Design Features

The following project design features (PDFs) are included to reduce potential adverse environmental impacts from implementing the proposed action:

The applicant would be required submit an engineering plan for the reconstruction to the BLM which would be reviewed prior to the commencement of the new road reconstruction activities.

Removal and disposal of any commercial timber would be approved by the BLM.

TLK would maintain the drainage and road surfaces throughout the term of the ROW. Native rock would be used where possible. All rock sources would be approved by BLM prior to use.

Disturbed areas would be seeded with native species and mulched to minimize erosion.

Road work would be permitted between May 15 and October 15. Activities outside this work period would occur only with prior BLM approval.

A BLM cultural resources technician would be on site to determine appropriate protection measures if cultural resources are uncovered during excavation.

No disturbance would occur within the stream channel.

3.0 Environmental Consequences

Only substantive site-specific environmental changes that would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives will be discussed. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered effects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no effects. Similarly, unless addressed specifically, the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality; areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC); cultural or historical resources; Native American religious sites; prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species; water quality; wetlands/riparian zones; wild and scenic rivers; and wilderness areas. In addition, hazardous waste or materials are not directly involved in the proposed action or alternatives.

3.1 Soils, Hydrology and Fisheries

3.1.1 Affected Environment

The existing road is adjacent to an intermittent, non fish bearing stream. The sites for the proposed road turnouts are approximately 0.55 from the Rogue River. Fish species present in the Rogue River include fall and spring chinook, coho, winter and summer steelhead, Pacific lamprey, Klamath small scale sucker, speckled dace, and sculpin species. One of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River is its fisheries. The Rogue River is listed as water quality limited for temperature on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality 303(d) list.

3.1.2 Alternative 1: No Action

No changes would occur to the current condition of fisheries or aquatic resources in the Rogue River. Stream conditions in the intermittent stream located within the project area would remain the same.

3.1.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed action would involve ground disturbance and vegetation removal in the riparian reserve of an intermittent stream. Vegetation removal would not result in increased stream temperature due to the intermittent nature of the stream and the minimal amount of vegetation

along a short segment of the stream that would be removed and little to no stream flow during warm summer months. Therefore, stream temperature in the intermittent stream and the Rogue River would not be affected. Sediment may reach the intermittent stream due to the road work. However, PDFs would minimize that amount (estimated at less than one cubic yard). Potential increased traffic due to facility improvements at the OK Corral is not expected to increase sediment to the intermittent stream or the Rogue River due to the fact that the road is already rocked and the proposed turnouts will be rocked. At a larger scale, sediment would not likely reach the Rogue River due to the minimal amount expected and the distance from the Rogue River. No effects to fisheries, aquatic resources or the fisheries ORV are expected

3.2 Botany

The project area was surveyed for Bureau Special Status (including T&E) plant species as part of the Rogue Pilot Project. None were located. The project area has been previously disturbed due to its proximity to the road corridor. Therefore no habitat currently exists on site.

3.2.2 Alternative 1: No Action

Vegetation conditions would remain the same and no new ground disturbance would occur. Since there is no habitat available, there would be no effects to T&E, Bureau Sensitive, or Bureau Assessment plant species.

3.2.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

Potential habitat for special status species would be enhanced and the risk of weed infestation reduced by seeding disturbed areas with native species (see PDFs). Reestablishing vegetation prevents conditions which are conducive to the establishment of noxious weeds (USDA Forest Service. 2001. Guide to Noxious Weed Prevention Practices, Version 1.0).

3.3 Wildlife

3.3.1 Affected Environment

There are no known listed threatened or endangered (T&E) wildlife species within or adjacent to the project area, and there are no seasonal noise constraints required. The project is not located within suitable T&E wildlife habitat. There are no known Bureau Sensitive or Assessment species locations or habitat features in the project area.

3.3.2 Alternative 1: No Action

Vegetation conditions would remain the same at proposed road improvement locations and no ground disturbance would occur. There would be no effects to T&E, Bureau Sensitive, or Bureau Assessment wildlife species.

3.3.3 Alternative 2: Proposed Action

There are no known T&E wildlife species in or adjacent to the project area and no T&E species habitat would be removed as a result of this project. Due to its short duration and small scale, the proposed action would not affect long term population viability of any species known to be in the area or lead to the need to list Bureau Sensitive or Assessment wildlife species.

3.4 Visual Resource Management (VRM)

The Rogue National Wild and Scenic River is classified in Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I. The outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) are natural scenic quality, fisheries, and recreational opportunities. The project area is not visible from the river due to foreground vegetative screening and topography. The view of the characteristic landscape by the casual observer would not change. The project would meet VRM Class I objectives and would not affect natural scenic quality or recreational opportunity ORVs.

4.0 Agencies and Persons Consulted

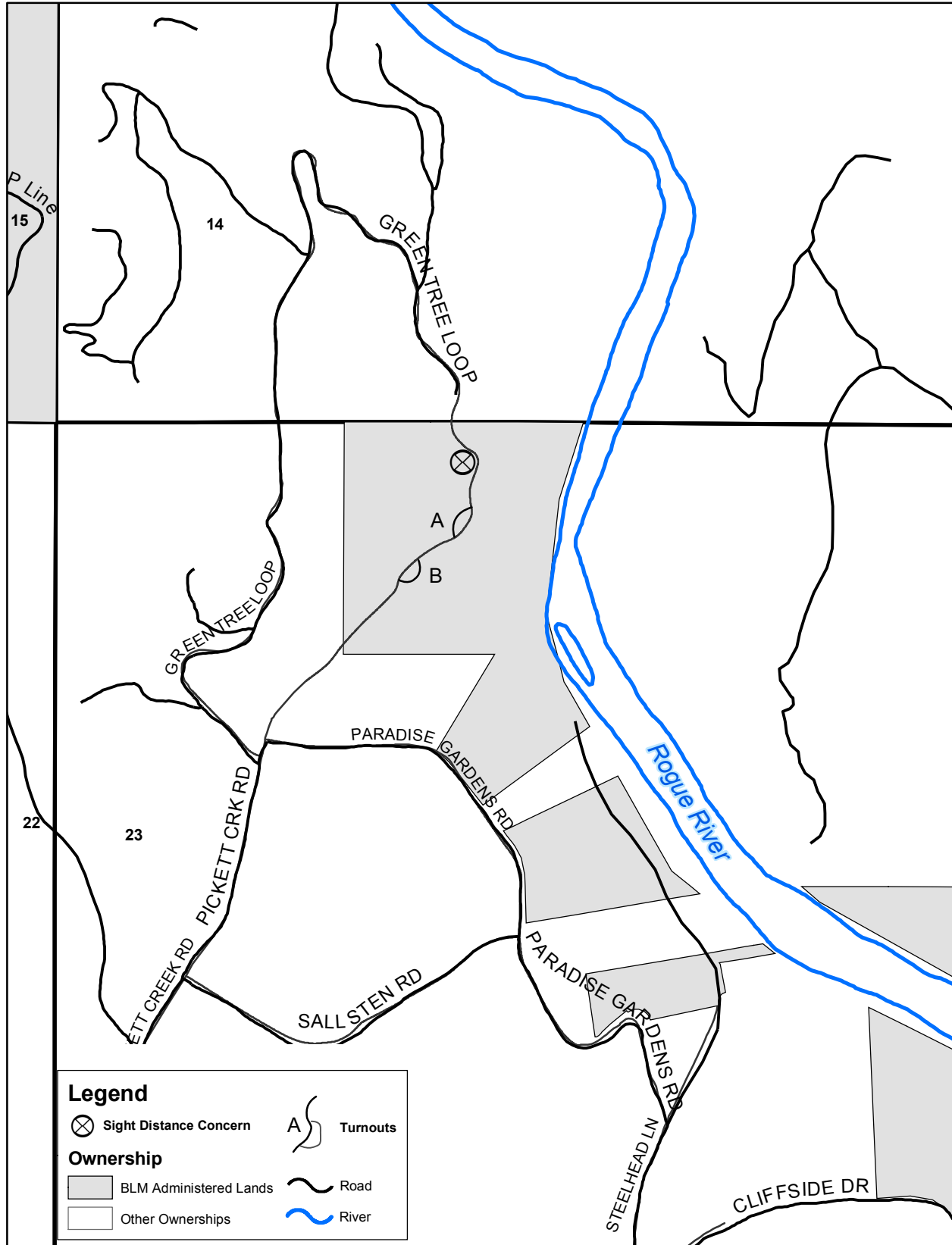
4.1 Public/Agency Involvement

Public involvement was conducted through notification of this project in the Medford Messenger, the Medford BLM's quarterly newsletter of proposed and ongoing activities.

4.2 Availability of Document and Comment Procedures

Copies of the EA will be available for public review in the BLM Medford District Office, the Greenfield Office in Grants Pass and online at www.or.blm.gov/Medford under planning/environmental assessments. A formal 15-day public comment period will be held following an announcement in the Grants Pass Daily Courier. Written comments should be addressed to Abbie Jossie, Field Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area, at 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504. Emailed comments may be sent to or110mb@or.blm.gov.

TLK Investment Road Right-of-Way
& Road Reconstruction Application
OR 60688 Exhibit A



SECTION 23 T.35 S. R.7 W. W.M.
JOSEPHINE COUNTY

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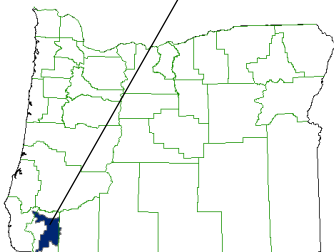
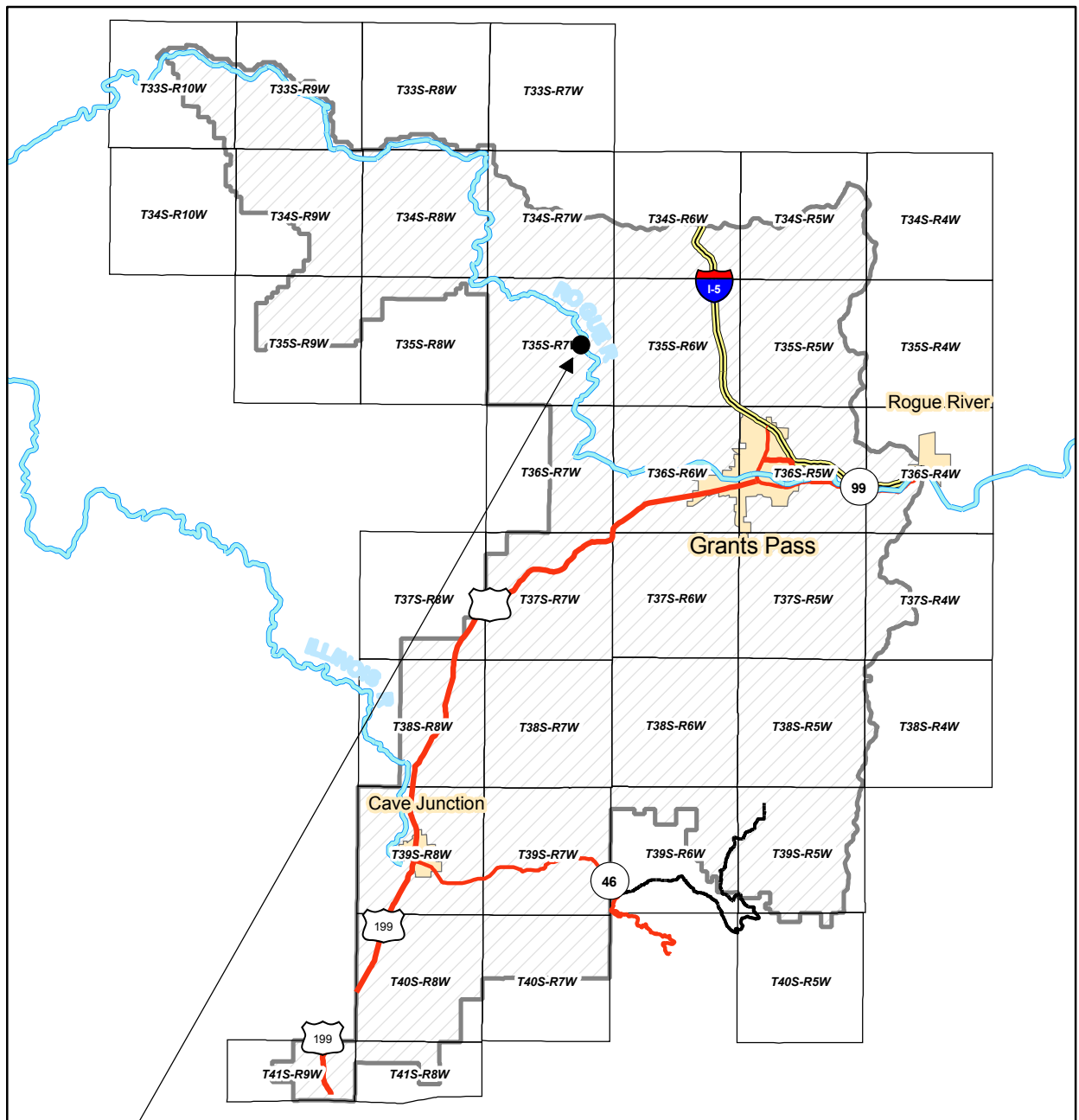
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Bureau of Land Management
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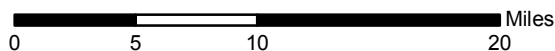
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TLK Investment, LLC Road Reconstruction and Road ROW Application OR 60688

Exhibit B - Vicinity

1:500,000



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District Office
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504-4100



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Legend

- Grants Pass Field Office
- Cities
- River

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